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11-24-03
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/827,346
Applicant : SHIMIZU et al.
Filed: : April 6, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1774
Examiner : Camie S. Thompson

Confirmation No.: 2989

Docket No. : 7390/71285
Customer No. : 22242

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

November 4, 2003

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of July 8, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

(1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

(2) Remarks/arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.